

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 remain in the application. The Applicants have amended claims 1, 9, 14, 21, 22, 24, 25, and 29.

The Examiner has requested Applicants to furnish the office with three references cited on pages 2, 8 and 9 of the present application as filed. Specifically, the Examiner has requested Applicants to furnish the office with:

1. PCI Local Bus Specification, Revision 2.1 by the PCI Special Interest Group (SIG) on June 1, 1995
2. Next Generation Input/Output (NGIO) Specification by the NGIO forum on March 26, 1999
3. Next Generation I/O Link Architecture Specification: HCA Specification, Revision 1.0 by NGIO Forum on July 20, 1999

The Applicants have submitted herewith in an Information Disclosure Statement documents 1 and 3 above. However, the undersigned has not yet been able to locate a copy of document 2 above (NGIO Spec by the NGIO forum on March 26, 1999). The undersigned continues to search for this document, but it was an interim specification replaced by new NGIO specification(s) on July 20, 1999. NGIO specifications dated July 20, 1999 have also been submitted herewith in the Information Disclosure Statement.

Claims 9-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 9 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner to recite "each

I/O controller driver". Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 14, 15, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,644,712 (Coscarella et al.) Claims 5-8, 17-19 and 22-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 5,644,712 (Coscarella et al.) in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,594,698 (Chow et al.) Claims 3, 9-13 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 5,644,712 (Alexander et al.) in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,209,023 (Dimitroff et al.) The Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections based on the following comments.

None of the references relied upon by the Examiner, either alone or in combination disclose or suggest at least features of the present invention of providing a report of multiple paths between a host and a target fabric-attached I/O controller that may be allocated or assigned to different hosts, and directing service requests between the host and the target fabric-attached I/O controller in response to the multiple paths.

Coscarella et al. discloses a computer system 102 for using logical channel groups to indirectly address channels. The computer system 102 of Coscarella et al. discloses a CPU 108, RAM 110, an I/O processor 118, a channel subsystem 106, a switch 140, control units CU 151, 152 and devices 161, 162. Coscarella et al. does not

Serial No.: 09/450,381

disclose any fabric-attached I/O controller that may be allocated or assigned to different hosts.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the prior art rejections relied upon by the Examiner for at least the reasons set forth above. In view of the foregoing, the application is considered to be in condition for allowance. Early notification of the same is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

September 13, 2004

Date



Robert D. Anderson
Reg. No. 33,826
(815) 885-2389